(e) what are the conditionalities for the supply of enriched uranium by China;

(d) whether Government have received low enriched uranium fuel from China; if so, the quantum thereof;

(e) whether Government have not developed technical know-how to produce the fuel within the country rather than to import the same from various countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) A commercial contract was concluded between the Department of Atomic Energy and China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation for supply of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS).

A consignment of LEU from China was received in the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad on 5.1.1995, where the LEU will be converted to fuel assemblies for use in TAPS. It is not in the national interest to disclose the quantum of fuel received.

Both the countries have agreed that the nuclear material supplied by China and products and materials derived thereof will be used only for peaceful purposes and will be subject to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

(e) and (f) All our atomic power plants other than Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) use Natural Uranium as fuel which is produced indigenously in adequate quantities. We are importing Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) from China for operating only TAPS. This LEU is received in the form of Uranium Hexaffuoride gas and is converted to fuel assemblies for use in TAPS at Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has also developed indigenously the technical know-how to produce LEU within the country.

Closure of Nuclear reactors

592. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to close down certain nuclear reactors in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner closure of the plants is going to affect the nuclear programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) There are ten nuclear power reactors in operation in India today. Of them, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-1 is the first Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) unit built in India, collaboration with Canada. It has a present rated capacity of 100 MWe. The performance of this unit has been affected due to equipment related problems and the unit was shut down for extended periods during the past several years. A final decision, based on techno-economic considerations, on its continued operation is yet to be taken.

(c) Several improvement have been incorporated in the design of subsequent PHWR units and therefore the nuclear power programme will not be affected.

Sale of products of Aristocrat Luggage Company in CSD AI) Canteens

593. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aristocrat Luggage Company has not been marketing all